

Serial No. 09/820,790

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence comprising [shown in] SEQ ID NO:2;

[(b) a nucleotide sequence that encodes of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;

(c) a nucleotide sequence that encodes an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;

(d) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids; and]

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) ~~(e)~~ a nucleotide sequence that is ~~the complement of~~ completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c) ~~(d)~~.

5-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A ~~nucleic acid~~ vector comprising the a nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 ~~5~~.

9. (currently amended) An isolated host cell containing the vector of claim 8.

Serial No. 09/820,790

10-23. (canceled)

24. (new) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

25. (new) An isolated polynucleotide, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said polynucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

26. (new) An isolated polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

27. (new) An isolated polynucleotide, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said polynucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO:3 or the complement thereof.

28. (new) The vector of claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

29. (new) The vector of claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 is expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

30. (new) The vector of claim 29, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.

31. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a transcript/cDNA sequence that encodes a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2;

Serial No. 09/820,790

- (b) SEQ ID NO:1;
- (c) nucleotides 262-1809 of SEQ ID NO:1; and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c).

32. (new) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 31.

33. (new) An isolated host cell containing the vector of claim 32.

34. (new) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 33 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

35. (new) The vector of claim 32, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

36. (new) The vector of claim 32, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 is expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

37. (new) The vector of claim 36, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.